

REMARKS

Claims 1–66 are presently pending in the application.

The Examiner has required a restriction to one of the following groups of claims per 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a sealing (gasket) member comprising a mica-based member, classified in class 501, subclass 14 or 15.
- II. Claims 10-18, drawn to a multilayer (compressive) seal, classified in class 277, subclass 654.
- III. Claims 19-36, drawn to processes for making a sealing (gasket) member, classified in class 156/48, or 501/27.
- IV. Claims 37-49, drawn to processes for making a multi-layer (compressive) seal, classified in class 156, subclass 313.
- V. Claims 50-63 and 66-68, drawn to an electrochemical device and/or solid oxid fuel cell assemblies, classified in class 429, subclass 35.
- VI. Claims 64-65, drawn to a method for sealing a junction between adjacent ceramic or metallic components of an electrochemical device, classified in class 29, subclass 623.2 or 413/9.

Applicant elects with traverse Group II claims 10-18, drawn to a multilayer (compressive) seal, classified in class 277, subclass 654.

The Examiner has further required election of one of the following species per 35 U.S.C. §121:

Species 1: the embodiment of Example 1.
Species 2: the embodiment of Example 2.
Species 3: the embodiment of Example 3.
Species 4: the embodiment of Example 4.

The Restriction is traversed on the alleged grounds made by the Examiner that “no claim appears to be generic.” Such a ground is not valid pending outcome of prosecution of the claims on the merits. Applicant elects with traverse Species 3, the embodiment of Example 3. Claims 10-18 in the elected claims of group II are all readable thereon.

Applicant retains the right to consideration of claims to additional species depending from, or otherwise requiring all the limitations of, an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR §1.141. Applicant further retains the right to prosecute any non-rejoined claims in a separate divisional.

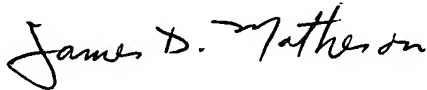
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to begin examination of the elected claims on the merits.

Applicant respectfully submits that no change in inventorship has occurred as a consequence of the current restriction and election requirements, in compliance with 37 CFR §1.48(b).

CLOSURE

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to respond in a proper manner to the Examiner's requested actions in this case. Should the Examiner identify any further requirements, he is invited to contact the undersigned for resolution thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Matheson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

James D. Matheson
Reg. No. 54,569

James D. Matheson, Ph.D.
Intellectual Property Legal Services
Battelle Memorial Institute
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
P.O. Box 999, MSIN (K1-53)
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 375-3782